

# MINUTES OF THE MONTANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

January 15, 2004

Helena College of Technology - Conference Room

Helena, Montana

Ed Jasmin, Chair of the Board of Regents called the meeting to order. Members present included: Lynn Morrison-Hamilton, Richard Roehm, Mark Semmens, Lila Taylor, John Mercer, Christian Hur, Kirk Miller, Storrs Bishop, John Fuller, Randy Morris, Diane Fladmo, Joyce Silverthorne, Patty Myers, Erik Engellant, and State Superintendent, Linda McCulloch. Others present included: Commissioner Dr. Sheila Stearns, BPE Executive Director, Steve Meloy, and Kris Goss from the Governor's office.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Kirk Miller, seconded by Richard Roehm, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

## BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT

The Board of Public Education report was submitted by Kirk Miller, Chair. Kirk reported that the Board has been very busy since the last Board of Education meeting. He thanked Steve Meloy for his consistent work in making sure that everything is working well. Kirk reported on the topics that the Board of Public Education has been involved with.

- The Montana K-12 Renewal Commission, legislated by HB 736, continues to be a focus of Montana K-12 education. The commission is comprised of a group of 28 people. The commission is talking about a vision to look at the funding mechanism, trying to come up with a simpler format and also adequate education. Some members of the commission want to attach a revenue source to their recommendations. The commission wants to put parameters on the word "quality" and then begin to work at adequately funding the components of quality that are above and beyond what the accreditation standards currently provide. The commission has discussed BASE funding coming from the state level rather than the increases we have seen in local funding over the last several years. The commission has two working groups, one is looking at the barriers to consolidation both within Montana's laws and local communities and the second is taking a look at the regionalization of educational services that may be more effective and efficient in delivering services to Montana. The Commission will be making recommendations to the Interim Committee on Education and Local Government by September 15, 2004.
- The Education Leadership Group has been revitalized. Membership includes Superintendent McCulloch, Commissioner Stearns, Steve Meloy, and Kris Goss. There has been a lot of progress in the past six-month period. Each of the standing committees will be reporting on their progress during the rest of the meeting.
- A BPE task force is studying assessment issues. This work is being driven by the NCLB legislation as well as many years of work by BPE collecting appropriate data and using it

to make meaningful changes. The group is preparing recommendations regarding the norm reference tests. Wes Snyder from the University of Montana has provided a white paper synopsis on this subject. The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) surveyed the K-12 community about their views on the future of testing. The criterion reference test is coming on board.

- The State Action for Education Leadership Program (SAELP) is beginning Phase 2. SAELP consortia will be completing a competitive application for continued funding in the amount of \$600,000 over the next two years. The intent is to create demonstration sites throughout the state to provide districts with resources to improve student outcomes through enhanced leadership. During Phase 1, SAELP contributed \$5,000 to the BPE effort to establish a communications plan. There have been many cooperative efforts among the education partners in connection with education leadership.
- The BPE has a task force looking at the Praxis II tests or other testing of teachers that can be done in light of the federal requirements for highly qualified teachers under NCLB.
- The BPE convened a special purpose schools task force to address issues of schools that don't fit into the regular mold of accreditation in Montana. Storrs Bishop is the chair of that committee with assistance from Linda Peterson and OPI.
- The certification committee is working with OPI on the professional educator preparation program standards. Patty Myers is the chair of the committee and has participated in the review of several programs. The review team is led by Linda Peterson, Steve Meloy and Pete Donovan.
- The BPE e-learning committee is an ad hoc committee chaired by Joyce Silverthorne. The committee proposed a rule for e-learning that the Board reviewed this morning. The Board voted to publish the rule notice as written.
- The BPE is beginning the budget process for the 07 biennium. The BPE has an office staff of four people and eight board members. They are very pleased with work that is done. They would like to have the budget reflect the scope of the work done by the BPE.
- The BPE has two advisory councils, CSPAC and MACIE. They have made a significant connector with those groups by providing a meeting where both groups meet with the BPE on an annual basis.
- The BPE received a report at their meeting on the five year plan which includes the performance objectives of the BPE. A copy of the report will be provided to the members of the Board of Education.
- Kirk advised the Board that Joyce Silverthorne was retiring at the end of the meeting to pursue her doctoral studies. He thanked her for her contributions to the BPE and Montana education and acknowledged her work with the Class 7 certification process, Indian Ed for All, the BPE internal affairs committee, elimination of the PPST which was

prejudiced against certain parts of the population, her actions as liaison with MACIE, development of the e-learning rule amendments and other Board duties. Joyce was presented with a plaque in appreciation.

Joyce Silverthorne thanked the group acknowledging that her service was a privilege, honor and tremendous responsibility. She noted the changes during her tenure and the positive impact that the Board of Education is making for the children in Montana. She expressed the hope she will be able to continue to work with Indian Ed for All.

Chairman Jasmin thanked Kirk for his report and asked if the Board members had any questions.

Mark Semmens asked what the timeline was for the K-12 Renewal Commission to submit its recommendations. Kirk stated that the Renewal Commission will provide recommendations to the Interim Committee on Education and Local Government by September 15, 2004. It is his belief that if the Interim Committee adopts the Renewal Commission's recommendations, they will make the recommendations available to the public for greater input.

John Mercer noted that in documents Kirk handed out that Kirk would be testifying at the school funding lawsuit and asked if there was anything Kirk could say about his testimony and the lawsuit.

Kirk stated that because of his role on the BPE he gave a deposition in September. The topics about which he will be testifying were defined during the deposition. He stated they would mainly be looking at the Montana accreditation standards from 1994 to the present and school districts' ability to meet the accreditation standards and to offer an opinion of whether the numbers have changed during that time period and if so, why. He also expects that he will testify regarding how the Board of Public Education has changed in connection with Montana education.

#### BOARD OF REGENTS' REPORT

Chairman Jasmin reported on the Board of Regents. A written report was passed out and he summarized the important points.

- The decision on how to spend \$2.7 million from the federal economic stimulus package allocated to the Regents by Governor Martz. \$450,000 was committed to community colleges, \$250,000 was designated for distance learning and given to the University of Montana to develop that program. The rest of the distributions are listed in the handout.
- The budgeting process has been underway for at least a year. The committee is chaired by Mark Semmens. Chairman Jasmin deferred to Mark for a statement on the budgeting process.

Mark reported on the budgeting process. They have solicited information from the campuses, including students, faculty, administrators, etc. as well as K-12 educators, legislators, the Governor's office, etc. to solicit what should be the key initiatives or

proposals for the university system and to develop priorities. The budget process includes the base budget and new initiatives. They are engaging in a lot of dialogue to put together a budget that is reflective of their priorities. The Regents will be considering the input at their March meeting and finalizing the recommendations at their May meeting. There may be additional refinements before the budget is submitted in the fall. This is the first year they have implemented this process and feel this is the right way to be heading.

- The Regents have been working on the "quality project". They've been discussing what is and how to measure quality. They have a broad based group working on the definition of quality for the University system. P-20 has a similar committee discussing what a quality education is.

Steve Meloy commented that the Renewal Commission was also discussing a definition for "quality education."

- The Regents have been involved with the "economic roadmap". They listened to a presentation at the Regents meeting from Dave Gibson, the Governor's Economic Advisor. The economic roadmap is a cooperative venture by the Regents, the legislature and the Governor's office. This venture was initiated by John Mercer and he provided further information.

John Mercer discussed the concept of education playing a more active role in growing Montana's economy at a leadership level. All of the commissions and committees have come to the same conclusion that education needs more money. The Board of Regents is proposing that they be more actively involved on several levels to help Montana's economy grow. One level of involvement would be to coordinate with other leaders on a long term plan for Montana's economy. Where executive and legislative leaders come and go, education leaders could be useful in keeping everyone on task with the long term goal of improving Montana's economy so that everyone can share in the benefits. The Board needs to consider in the budget process, what it's doing to make Montana's economy grow. The Board needs to put together a better case to show the connection between the state's economy and education. Education leaders need to be involved in understanding and helping solve Montana's other problems. The bottom line is, education needs more money and the Board needs to show that it is the investment in education that leads to the kind of prosperity we want for Montana.

Commissioner Stearns commented on the concept discussed by John Mercer and expressed appreciation to the Governor and others in the executive and legislative branches for their teamwork approach in trying to figure out how to carry this concept forward. Professors and faculty are involved in civic projects, but it's somewhat dispersed. Bringing this to another level will be a positive thing for education and the state of Montana.

Steve Meloy commented that John's comments made him feel better about the potential collaboration on public relations concepts with Higher Ed. One of the themes of the

Board of Education is "Keep the promise". This refers to the Constitution that says all of our children should have a quality education. The other theme is "Quality Education - Everyone Profits." This is directed to the taxpayers who do not have children, reminding them they are the public in public education and that everyone profits. An investment in education will yield dividends.

- Chairman Jasmin referred the board to another initiative of the Board of Regents which is the two year education marketing initiative to promote two year education, wherever it might be. There is value in a two year education both in the dollars committed and that whatever you pursue at a two year institution can be transferred to a four year education. This is good way to begin life pursuits. One of his concerns during his term on the board has been that Montana's two year education falls far short of two year education programs in other states. The Regents are trying to promote two year education as being a real opportunity for all people in Montana.
- The last item in the Regents' report is the tuition waiver policy. They have previously talked about the fact that compensation increases for state and university employees have been minimal and to reward those employees might be to give them some sort of a tuition waiver for their dependents. It's a minimal dollar amount, but is a beginning and a way to say that we value them and would like to assist them in their economic pursuits.

#### OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION REPORT

State Superintendent, Linda McCulloch introduced her new OPI Deputy Superintendent, Bud Williams. Bud has many years in the field of education and his experience will be a great benefit to the OPI.

State Superintendent McCulloch reported on the education leadership group. Early in her term as State Superintendent, she and Commissioner Dick Crofts had several conversations, making sure there was a formal dialogue between K-12 and the Regents to make sure that there is an entity to facilitate public needs between the groups that was not a duplication of any other committees such as Ed Forum, which is a group of parties interested in education. Discussions about legislation and policies are brought before the Ed Forum. They wanted to make sure this wasn't duplicated. They wanted to keep it simple and involve state education agencies. Those involved are the State Superintendent, the Commissioner of Higher Education and their two deputies, the Executive Director of BPE and from the Governor's Office, Kris Goss. They keep each other informed about P-20 issues. They organized the Pathways Conference in September of 2002 to start the discussion on bridging barriers to higher education, Indian education issues and high school preparation for higher ed. They brought in national speakers for the conference and looked at the life long learning experience in Montana. In September 2003, when Commissioner Stearns came, they discussed making sure there was staffing for the committees and in December they had a good discussion on the purpose of the Leadership Group and what they could accomplish. They renewed their combined interest in issues of barriers to higher education and how K-12 and Higher Ed have a role in that. At future meetings they will discuss making sure that students who want to go on to a two or four year higher education experience are prepared to do that.

Chairman Jasmin discussed the progress of the Board of Education since he was appointed to the Board of Regents.

### POLICY AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Richard Roehm submitted a report for the Policy and Evaluation Committee. He stated that Superintendent McCulloch gave a good description of the Leadership Group and what they do. He and Bob Brown wrote the by-laws for the Board of Education that started to give it some format. He stated that he was pleased with how the Board is progressing. The Policy and Evaluation Committee is one that facilitates the actions of the other three committees. If problems come up the Policy and Evaluation Committee looks at the problem and makes suggestions. Diane Fladmo stated at the last meeting that we had all these good ideas, but we needed to somehow make it happen. The Committee turned to the leadership group and said they needed to make it happen. Richard stated that the Leadership Group had done a superb job. One of the areas that the Committee has been asked to do something about is: How do the committees execute their charge? The Committee suggests that the Board of Education empower all of the committees to do whatever they consider to be appropriate to accomplish their charge. This may require appointing a task force or subcommittees. In cooperation with the Leadership Group and the committee members, the committees need to determine what they need to do to accomplish the charge the Board of Education has given them.

Richard further recommended that the Board draft collaborative policy language. They are also considering how the Board of Education agenda is built. Each committee should decide what their agenda is. The Regents, Board of Public Education and the Leadership Group should suggest agenda items for Board of Education meetings.

Questions of overlapping jurisdiction should go through the Leadership Group because they represent all of the different areas involved.

### BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Semmens reported that the Committee met by teleconference with Steve Meloy, Commissioner Stearns and Kris Goss from the Governor's office. The conference began by trying to determine what is meant by "unified budget". The parties agreed that it should be something more than K-12 and Higher Ed each developing their separate budgets and stapling them together. At this point each person in this group doesn't have a complete understanding of all of the P-20 budget. Their goal is to determine how to get somewhere between the two extremes and get closer to a unified budget. They discussed the issue of the inclusion of the other agencies that aren't directly involved in K-12 and Higher Ed, such as the Montana Historical Society, Library Commission and the Arts Council. The committee also discussed priorities such as whether or not the committee has a strong enough knowledge base to prioritize between P-12 and Higher Ed. The committee agreed to recommend to the Board of Education that it hold a special meeting after the May submission of the budgets to the executive branch and before July. This provides an opportunity for K-12 and Higher Ed to share their respective budgets and get together to explain what drives each budget before it's carved in stone. The goal

is to have a candid and open dialogue on the budgets and items that should be included or reconsidered. Some items are clearly P-20 projects - Montana writing assessments, proficiency standards, funding for the e-learning initiative, rural districts, etc. The committee feels it is making progress toward the unified budget process.

Storrs Bishop commented that Mark had characterized the teleconference call accurately and felt they came to quite a bit of resolution in the near term. He commented on the historical perspective of the unified budget process. Governor Racioc had four MetNet meetings on the unified budget process which involved getting the two boards together and the other agencies that chose to be involved. They explained the budgets more on need not just dollars and at the same time gave the public an opportunity to understand and comment. Storrs felt that the boards need to get back to having the meeting Mark referred to and perhaps having the public involved. All of the Board of Education members need to have a better understanding of the needs of all agencies included in the unified budget.

Mark commented that Mark Bruno from OBPP did offer to come to that meeting to offer their initial thoughts and answer questions and concerns that the Board has and to get an impression of the position of the executive branch prior to the September deadline for filing the budget. Mark deferred to John Mercer for his ideas on a longer term goal.

John discussed the importance of the Board of Education presenting an effective unified budget using the same language and then marketing the unified budget. He stated that the Board needed to look at other areas of government to see if other funds could be used more effectively by education. John discussed the possibility of Governor Martz increasing Board of Education funding and staffing so that the Board could be more effective. He commented that the Board of Public Education has done a good job but they are extremely understaffed. He discussed a previous legislative effort to get rid of the Board of Regents and the executive branch's desire to have more ownership in education with the possibility of a cabinet level position that would be attached to the Board of Education. He suggested a special budget meeting with education partners and representation from the Governor's office to work together to develop the unified budget and the importance of submitting a budget that shows it gets more return for its cost. John stated that he felt this election cycle was an excellent opportunity to make education a nonpartisan/bi-partisan issue and a leader in the economic development of Montana.

Kirk Miller added that the staffing work done for the Board of Public Education was also accomplished by Superintendent McCulloch and staff at OPI and that OPI does have fine people supporting the work the Board is trying to accomplish. He stated that having the process, timeline and staff in place will help them to move forward with the issues related to this budget. The ideas generated to look to the future to make the processes better than currently exist is a positive approach to the unified budget issue.

Mark stated he did not feel the Board had the time to debate John's recommendations and asked Steve Meloy, Commissioner Stearns and Kris Goss if they had any comments.

Kris Goss stated that they have had several conversations about the Board of Education holding a special meeting and having the budget committee meet prior to that meeting. The special

meeting would provide the Board an opportunity to hear about each component of the nine budgets and high level detail about the budgets. Several possible dates have been discussed. He stated that the active work of all of the committees with dialogue on the issues surrounding education was a true spirit of collaboration and the unified budget is the culmination of this process.

Commissioner Stearns stated that they have many ideas for the special budget meeting including summits and round table discussions. It would not only be a day for the board to meet but would provide an opportunity for staff and board members to go to small group sessions and become more educated about the different sectors of the unified budget. They are working on the timelines to finalize the unified budget for submission to the executive branch.

Steve Meloy added that prior to that meeting they hope to have all of the nine entities involved in the unified budget prepare a summary or document of true needs for their programs.

Mark made a motion that the Board of Education direct staff to work toward establishing a meeting of the full board sometime between May and July to work on the unified budget.

The motion was seconded by Storrs Bishop and unanimously carried.

#### INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL COMMITTEE REPORT

Joyce Silverthorne reported that the committee is still struggling on how an action plan can come together. Lynn Hinch from OPI has been appointed by the leadership group to work with the committee. Prior to leaving her position on the board Joyce will transfer her records to Lynn. The committee did have a conference call in January and discussed the frustrations of how the monitoring process can go forward. Discussion about Indian education needs to take place at each level. One issue is whether Indian Education for All is an education concern or an education for all concern. That definition has not been clarified. Indian Education for All is often thought of in K-12 programs, but we need to broaden our perspectives. The OPI plan that was developed in 1996 was revised this year with some of the elements completed. Joyce acknowledged the committee's appreciation for the Governor's contribution of \$50,000 to the Indian Education for All program. She stated that there was a cost for the program and that professional development was not a simple process. Teachers and administrators are not prepared to implement the program. In the Accreditation report, each school had to state whether or not it was addressing Indian Education for All. All but three schools said they were, but we know that many schools are not. Data needs to be compiled on what the schools are doing, but this takes time, effort and money. The committee is establishing what it needs to do in its action plan, but it needs further steps. Montana has a great resource in its seven tribal colleges, each of which are doing Native American studies and language in an attempt to fill the lack of diversity in our education force. She stated that there is a disconnect in what tribal colleges do and what the state needs in Indian Education for All. They are scheduling a meeting of the tribal colleges at the end of January to look at what the colleges, reservation communities and the state are currently doing about Indian Education for All. They are hoping that some of

the resources that are already available will be coordinated or communicated to the Indian Education for All community.

Randy Morris commented that there had been some question as to the status of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Indian Education. The committee members felt that it was an important opportunity to showcase programs that have impact in the classroom or community. The committee needs to look at ways to promote successful programs and recognize districts or colleges that are doing a good job. One of the problems is districts don't know what is working in other districts. A mechanism needs to be developed for sharing this information.

Kris Goss stated that when the education community was notified that the Governor's office was ready to accept applications, no applications came in. They worked with Laurie Ryan on this and would like to work with the Indian Education for All committee to find out who's deserving of the awards.

#### P-20 EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Diane Fladmo reported that the committee was working diligently and effectively to establish ongoing collaboration between the Board of Public Education and the Board of Regents. Diane thanked the leadership group for ensuring that the committee had wonderful staff members to staff the meeting the evening before.

Committee Co-chair, Lynn Morrison Hamilton reported on the presentation from Dean Rowland on the distance education program at the University of Montana. The Regents accepted a \$250,000 allocation from the Governor's office for this program. Although there were some initial concerns, Dean Rowland came back after a meeting with various groups on distance learning and presented information on an excellent program that has been developed. The project will be managed by the Dean of the School of Education at the University of Montana. The P-20 Committee will provide oversight of the project and will be responsible for receiving and reviewing progress reports. The Board of Public Education E-learning Committee will provide advice to the Dean. Professor John Lunt will be the director of project.

Esther Rodriguez gave a presentation at the P-20 meeting the night before. Her PowerPoint presentation will be available to the Board members that were not present. Ms. Rodriguez stated that components of a successful P-20 project include the requirement that all students take a rigorous academic program, an assessment program which requires exams prior to graduation, focus on increasing quality of teaching, leveling the academic playing field, and communication strategies for students and families. She identified the following important initiatives that the Board might want to consider: high quality teaching, a rigorous academic program, and programs that focus on students who have fallen through the gaps.

The committee also reviewed the alignment of high school assessment in writing and mathematics. The committee recommended that two task forces be appointed by the Leadership Group to take on this project. Diane Fladmo and Lynn Hamilton will draft a charge to those two groups.

The committee has discussed dual credit offerings at the high school and post secondary level. The committee will ask the Leadership Group to appoint a task force for this purpose as well. The task force will be asked to examine the current dual enrollment program and make recommendations back to the committee regarding the definition, eligibility requirements, timelines and costs. Arlene Parisot and staff are conducting a study of dual credit offerings in the two year institutions.

The committee's public awareness campaign will dovetail with many items that came up with both boards at the Board of Education meeting. They have accepted four recommendations for the public awareness campaign: 1) convene two meetings to develop a public awareness campaign - one meeting will involve major state agencies, boards and organizations and the other meeting will involve other agencies and programs specifically interested in public education and the pro-college message; 2) survey the groups gathered under part one to gather information on missions, goals and activities; 3) ask staff to develop a communications plan to keep everyone on the P-20 Committee, education constituencies and stakeholders informed on the work of the committee; and 4) hold regular meetings to coordinate activities and ask the Leadership Group to address the problem of a central data collection point for P-20 education in Montana.

Commissioner Stearns stated that she had heard that oversight by the E-learning Committee and the P-20 Committee might somehow slow down the distance learning pilot project.

Dean Rowland stated that the answer was, "No", the proposal accepted by the P-20 Committee indicated that there were four key stages of oversight, the first being the approval of the proposal last night. The other three key points of oversight are the review of the progress reports to be issued in August and December of 04 and June of 2005. While not being excessively intrusive, the P-20 Committee will have the opportunity to ask for additional information and clarification. The E-learning Committee will have the same type of involvement. The involvement of the two committees is a continuation of what has turned into an incredible collaboration in the education community.

Randy Morris commented that the process put in place is timed so the program can be offered in the fall of 2004. The distance learning rule was approved by the Board of Public Education today and will be in place by the end of March, 2004. From the K-12 perspective this concept is not new as there are a number of institutions and providers that are ready to provide internet classes to the students in the K-12 arena. They wanted to make sure that even though this was a pilot that there were rules in place that didn't allow any other entity that wanted to provide classes over the Internet to offer classes for credit.

Dean Rowland stated that they were on the best of time tables with the approval from the P-20 Committee.

Chairman Jasmin asked if the Board of Education needed to take action on moving forward rather than just accepting the committee's report.

Randy Morris moved that the Board of Education endorse the pilot project for distance learning as funded through the Governor's allowance of \$250,000. Christian Hur seconded the motion.

Chairman Jasmin called for discussion on the motion.

Christian Hur commented that as a taxpayer he wanted to make sure that the money was being used wisely, that the oversight and accountability was there and that it will be through the Board of Education.

Lynn Morrison Hamilton added that because the Board of Regents is the distributing agency the oversight and accountability of funds is with the Regents, however the Board of Regents directed that the oversight of the project go to the P-20 Committee of the Board of Education and she felt it was appropriate for the Board of Education to accept that responsibility.

Chairman Jasmin called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Kirk Miller commented that on behalf of the Board of Public Education to he wanted to offer appreciation to the Regents for the work they did in granting exemptions to the admission requirements for the math proficiency for 2004. He also stated that it was reassuring to walk into the P-20 meeting the night before and find that there were large components of both staffs, both K-12 and Higher Education talking productively about P-20 issues and that one of the benefits is that the Higher Ed staff and the K-12 staff are building positive relationships.

Chairman Jasmin called for a motion to accept the committee reports. Christian Hur so moved and Diane Fladmo seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Jasmin gave an update on the interim legislative assignments.

Connie Erickson, a research analyst with the Montana Legislative Services reported on the Interim Committee on Education and Local Government. The 12 member committee is equally divided between Senators and Representatives - Republicans and Democrats and is responsible for issues related to local government and education. Last year the committee conducted a series of nine public meetings across Montana on the recommendation of the Governor's K-12 advisory council. This interim the committee created three subcommittees - local government, K-12 and post secondary education. The K12 education subcommittee is looking at the issue of health insurance for school district employees. MEA-MFT is taking a lead in proposing legislation. The subcommittee will help in facilitating meetings between interested groups and hopefully they can come up with some legislation that everyone can support.

The post secondary education policy committee has been in existence for several years and has historically handled all issues with Higher Ed and will be actively participating with the Regents regarding post secondary education issues.

The Interim Committee is monitoring the work of the Public Education School Renewal Commission. The Commission will be reporting their findings to the Interim Committee in September of 2004. The Interim Committee's staff monitor the Commission and report back to

the full committee regarding what's happening. The Interim Committee is very concerned with the implementation of NCLB. They have received a preliminary report and will be asking for updates.

Most of the work of the Interim Committee is done in subcommittees, the full committee met last week and will meet again in June and September and will publish a final report in October 2004.

Chairman Jasmin asked for any other items from board members to present to the Board prior to public comment.

Commissioner Stearns called attention to the fact that this meeting was also Chairman Jasmin's last meeting. She reviewed what Regent Jasmin termed the bright spots in the last seven years: broadening of access, emphasis on improving quality in the professional schools, writing the math and writing proficiency standards, meeting Montana's needs by establishing the dental hygiene program and establishing the nursing sub committee, economic development issues, the working relationship with the Board of Public Education and Board of Education, the growth of research in the University system from \$24,000,000 to \$154,000,000 - a form of economic enterprise and the creation of knowledge and learning opportunity for students and the affirmation of the governance of the Board of Regents.

Chairman Jasmin thanked Commissioner Stearns and stated it would be a privilege to walk out the door with Joyce Silverthorne.

Chairman Jasmin called for public comments. There were none.

Kirk Miller moved that the meeting be adjourned. Christian Hur seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Linda McCulloch  
Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent  
Secretary to the Montana State Board of Education